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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,999	01/20/2004	Mark Harbaugh	50642/287728	1647

30559 7590 10/18/2007
CHIEF PATENT COUNSEL
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EXAMINER

EREZO, DARWIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3773

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding..

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/760,999

Applicant(s)

HARBAUGH ET AL.

Examiner

Darwin P. Erez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 7/27/07 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that examination of all the claims of the entire application will not impose an undue burden. This is not found persuasive because the invention of Group II could be used in a method of cutting any portion of the human body, including organs, tissues, or for marking bones. Thus, the search for Group II is more comprehensive and would provide an undue burden on the examiner. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.
2. Claims 10-24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 7/27/07.
3. The applicant's arguments regarding the Election Requirement is persuasive and the election requirement has been withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. Applicant should note that the large number of references in the attached IDS have been considered by the examiner in the same manner as other documents in Office search files are considered by the examiner while conducting a search of the prior art in a proper field of search. **See MPEP 609.05(b)**. Applicant is requested to point out any particular references in the IDS which they believe may be of particular relevance to the instant claimed invention in response to this office action."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,715,836 to Kliegis et al.

Kliegis discloses a method of performing an incision using a computer aided surgical navigation system, the system comprising a sensor adapted to sense the position and orientation of at least one surgical reference associated with a structure to be referenced (col. 4, line 66-col. 5, line 4; col. 6, line 3-6); and computer functionality 1, the method of guiding the surgical incision comprising:

associating at least one first surgical reference with a portion of an individual's bony anatomy and skin proximate the bony anatomy (col. 4, line 66-col. 5, line 4);

registering the position and orientation of the portion of the individual's bony anatomy and skin proximate the bony anatomy with the computer aided surgical navigation system such that the computer functionality can generate information corresponding to the position and orientation of the individual's bony anatomy and skin proximate the bony anatomy by receiving information from the sensor sensing the position and orientation of the first surgical reference, and calculating a suggested incision path and length based upon the information generated by the computer functionality (col. 5, lines 4-12);

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associating at least one second surgical reference with an incision device (col. 6, line 40); and

registering the position of the incision device with the computer aided surgical navigation system such that the computer functionality can generate information corresponding to the position of the incision device by receiving information from the sensor sensing the position and orientation of the second surgical reference; and using the incision device in the performance of the incision, wherein the computer aided surgical navigation system provides guidance based on comparing the suggested incision path and length with the information corresponding to the position and orientation of the incision device as generated by the computer functionality (col. 6, lines 40-55);

wherein the computer aided surgical navigation system providing guidance further comprises a display 6; wherein displaying the suggested incision path and length and the position of the incision device further comprises a semi-transparent display displaying the suggested incision path and length and the position of the of the incision device or a monitor displaying the suggested incision path and length and the position of the of the incision device (col. 5, lines 38-49);

wherein a visual or audible feedback is provided if the incision device deviates from the suggested incision (col. 6, lines 47-50);

wherein an image of the suggested incision is projected onto the individual (col. 6, lines 14-24);

wherein the incision is used to access the interior of the individual to install an orthopaedic implant; and installing the orthopaedic implant (col. 6, lines 62-67).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darwin P. Erezó whose telephone number is (571) 272-4695. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Darwin P. Erezó/
Examiner
Art Unit 3773

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